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News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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2007 FARM NUMBERS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

WEST VIRGINIA - The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 21,400 in 2007, an increase of 200 farms from 2006. The total land in farms was 3.6 million acres, unchanged from 2006. The average farm size was 168 acres, down 2 acres from 2006.

The West Virginia number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 economic sales class totaled 17,600, up 100 from 2006. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 2.04 million acres, down 10,000 acres from 2006.

The number of operations with cattle and calves totaled 12,500 operations, unchanged from 2006. Beef cow operations totaled 10,800 operations, unchanged from 2006. Milk cow operations totaled 450 operations, down 20 operations from 2006.

The number of operations with hogs and pigs totaled 900 operations, unchanged from 2006.

The number of operations with sheep and lambs totaled 1,100 operations, unchanged from 2006.

The number of operations with goats totaled 2,000 operations, up 100 operations from 2006.

UNITED STATES - The number of farms in the United States in 2007 is estimated at 2.08 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2006. Total land in farms, at 930.9 million acres, decreased 1.5 million acres, or 0.16 percent, from 2006. The average farm size was 449 acres during 2007, an increase of three acres from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

Compared to 2006, the number of farms in 2007 declined in 26 states, remained unchanged in 16 states and increased in 8 states. The largest decline in the number of farms occurred in Tennessee (losing 2,000 farms), then Georgia (losing 1,500 farms), followed by California, Florida, Kentucky, Oregon, Texas, and Washington (each losing 1,000 farms). The largest increase in the number of farms occurred in New Mexico (gaining 500 farms), then Colorado and Virginia (each gaining 300 farms), followed by Montana and West Virginia (each gaining 200 farms).

The number of operations with cattle totaled 967,440 during 2007, down slightly from 2006 and 2 percent below 2005. Beef cow operations in 2007 were down 1 percent from 2006 and 2 percent below 2005. Milk cow operations were 5 percent below last year and 9 percent below two years ago. Texas had the largest number of operations with all cattle with 149,000 operations and also had the largest number of operations with beef cattle with 130,000 operations. Wisconsin had the largest number of milk cow operations with 14,400 operations.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 65,640 during 2007, down slightly from 2006 and down 2 percent from 2005. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 82 percent of the inventory. Iowa had the largest number of hog operations with 8,500 operations.

The number of operations with sheep totaled 70,590 during 2007, up 2 percent from 2006 and up 3 percent from 2005. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 91.1 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 7.4 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.5 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 30.8 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 23.1 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 46.1 percent of the inventory. Texas had the largest number of sheep operations with 7,300 operations.

The number of operations with goats totaled 108,130 during 2007, up 4 percent from 2006. Angora goat operations totaled 4,550, down 4 percent from 2006. Milk goat operations totaled 19,930, up slightly from 2006. Meat goat operations totaled 90,270, up 4 percent from 2006. Texas had the largest number of goat operations with 21,000 operations. Total goat operations will be equal to or less than the sum of angora, milk and meat because places which own more than one goat type only count as one operation. This is the first annual publication of goat operations.